



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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ELATINE CALIFORNICA **CALIFORNIA WATERWORT**

California Waterwort is a tiny, glabrous annual that grows submerged or exposed, and which freely roots at the nodes and forms small mats when exposed, or elongates under water. Montana material is up to 15 cm long and upright. The opposite, linear to spatula shaped, entire margined leaves are usually less than or slightly longer than 1 cm long. The minute flowers are borne solitary on short stalks in the leaf margins and have 4 sepals, 4 petals, 8 stamens, and a single pistil. The mature fruits are 4-celled, thin-walled, capsules on stalks and the size of a pinhead. The mature seeds are regularly reticulate and are curved either to an approximate right angle or like the letter "J." Flowering in July-August.

Distinguished from other species of *ELATINE* in Montana by having stalked flowers, capsules with parts in sets of 4 rather than 2 or 3, and conspicuously curved seeds.